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Message Text

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R 301617Z OCT 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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ATHENS PASS LEFEAVER

FOL RPT JIDDA 7145 SENT ACTION SECSTATE USDOC WASHDC BEIRUT
OCT 25 QTE

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BEIRUT FOR RTDO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BGEN, OGEN, SA, LE
SUBJECT: COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS, JIDDA; BEIRUT RTDO

1. EMBASSY NOTES WITH REGRET DETERIORATION OF SITUATION IN BEIRUT AND INEVITABLE DECLINE IN RTDO ACTIVITIES. IN ORDER EFFECTIVELY TO USE THE RELATIVELY INACTIVE LOCAL COMMERCIAL TALENT THERE, AND TO SALVAGE SOME OF COMMERCE'S EXPENDITURES, WE PROPOSE FOLLOWING:

2. ASSIGNMENT ON TDY OF TWO COMMERCIAL SPECIALISTS, JABBOUR AND ALI KHUDR TO EMBASSY JIDDA FOR NEXT FOUR MONTHS. SINCE COMMERCE ALREADY COMMIXTED TO RTDO COSTS AND OUR BUDGET SEVERELY STRAINED, WE WOULD EXPECT COMMERCE FUND ASSIGNMENTS.
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3. WITH AVERAGE DAILY VISIT OF 17 U.S. BUSINESSMEN TO DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL OFFICES AND ABOUT SEVEN OR EIGHT DAILY AT EMBASSY, OUR HUMAN RESOURCES ARE BEING SEVERELY STRAINED TO GIVE ADEQUATE SERVICE. A KEY FSL WHO HAS BEEN WITHOUT LEAVE FOR TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS NOW AWAY IN INDIA UNTIL DECEMBER 15. OUR TOP COMMERCIAL FSL IS OFTEN BUSY UNTIL PAST MIDNIGHT WITH U.S. BUSINESSMEN. AVAILABLE LOCAL TALENT TO FILL SPECIALIZED POSITONS NON-EXISTENT.

4. PERSONNEL ASSIGNED, IF OTHER THAN NAMED ABOVE, MUST OF COURSE BE ARAB SPEAKING AND WILLING TO ARRANGE OWN LIVING QUARTERS. WE COULD USE ONE AMERICAN OFFICER ON SAME BASIS IF COMMERCE CONCURS.

5. ALI KHUDR HAS MENTIONED DESIRE TRANSFER TO JIDDA AND HAS SEVERAL GOOD CONTACTS HERE. HAS ARRANGED SUITABLE QUARTERS WITH RESIDENT LEBANESE FAMILY IN JIDDA.

6. CONCENTRATION OF SERVICE TO U.S. BUSINESSMEN HAS CAUSED CERTAIN DEGREE OF NEGLECT TO SAUDI BUSINESS AND OFFICIAL COMMUNITY AND INABILITY TO VISIT RIYADH FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES. WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS HAVE BECOME MEANINGLESS. ASSIGNMENT OF EXTRA HELP FROM BEIRUT RTDO WILL NOT LESSEN WORK EFFORT BUT WILL INCREASE SERVICE TO BUSINESSMEN AND PERMIT US PERFORM IMPORTANT WORK ON BUILDEX '76 AND TMS.

7. INCIDENTALLY, IF COMMERCIAL NEWSLETTER FROM BEIRUT IS SUSPENDED, SHALL WE PREPARE ESTIMATES, ETC. FOR PRODUCTION LOCAL U.S. NEWSLETTER?
AKIN UNQTE
INGERSOLL

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